REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge applicants' claim for priority under 35 USC 119 and receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents.

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to return a copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A filed on July 6, 2004, and to indicate thereon that the cited publications were considered and made of record.

The Examiner is further respectfully requested to approve the drawings.

Restriction was required under 35 USC 121 as follows:

Group I. claims 1 to 35, drawn to an immersion nozzle; and Group II. claims 36 to 45, drawn to a method of continuous casting of steel.

Applicants elect Group II (claims 36 to 45).

Non-elected claims 1 to 35 were canceled hereinabove.

Applicants reserve their right to file a Divisional application under 35 USC 121 directed to claims 1 to 35.

Claim 36 was amended into independent form by including a feature of original claim 1.

10.

New claim 46 includes the features of original claim 2. New claim 47 includes the features of original claim 3. New claim 48 includes the features of original claim 4. New claim 49 includes the features of original claim 5. New claim 50 includes the features of original claim 6. New claim 51 includes the features of original claim 7. New claim 52 includes the features of original claim 8. New claim 53 includes the features of original claim 9. New claim 54 includes features of original claims 36 and New claim 55 includes the features of original claim 11. New claim 56 includes the features of original claim 12. New claim 57 includes the features of original claim 13. New claim 58 includes the features of original claim 14. New claim 59 includes the features of original claim 15. New claim 60 includes the features of original claim 16. New claim 61 includes the features of original claim 17. New claim 62 includes the features of original claim 18. New claim 63 includes the features of original claim 18.

New claim 64 includes features of original claims 36 and 19.

New claim 65 includes the features of original claim 20.

New claim 66 includes the features of original claim 21.

New claim 67 includes the features of original claim 22.

New claim 68 includes the features of original claim 23.

New claim 69 includes the features of original claim 24.

New claim 70 includes the features of original claim 25.

New claim 71 includes the features of original claims 25 and

26.

New claim 72 includes the features of original claims 25 and

27.

New claim 73 includes the features of original claims 25 and

28.

New claim 74 includes features of original claims 36 and

29.

New claim 75 includes the features of original claim 30.

New claim 76 includes features of original claims 36 and

31.

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New claim 77 includes features of original claims 36 and 32.

New claim 78 includes the features of original claim 33.

New claim 79 includes features of original claims 36 and

New claim 80 includes the features of original claim 35.

Submitted concomitantly herewith is an INFORMATION

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.

Enclosed is a Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$800 in payment of 16 additional total claims.

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34.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD S. BARTH REG. NO. 28,180

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Encs.: (1) PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

- (2) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
- (3) Form PTO-2038